

# Illinois Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council

Monday, February 15, 2013

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Chicago - 100 W. Randolph, 16<sup>th</sup> floor, Governor's Video Conference Room

Springfield – 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monroe, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Room 205, Governor's Video Conference Room

Dial-in 888-494-4032 Access Code 4218176480#

Chicago: Delio Calzolari, Amber Kirchhoff, Anne Kondziela, Ben Martindale, Brian Riegler, Julie Smith, Deb Strauss

Phone: Amy Amizich, Darcy Benway, Michele Carmichael, Lizanne DeStefano, Cindy Doil

## Minutes

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Commissioner Brian Riegler welcomed attendees in Chicago and via phone and thanked them for participating.

### **II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from meeting were approved as presented.

### **III. Introduction of New Meeting Participants**

Commissioner introduced and welcomed Dr. Ben Martindale, Chief Operating Officer, North Chicago Community Unit School District #187 and Dr. Darcy Benway, Superintendent of O'Fallon Township High School District #203. Both indicated that they look forward to working more closely with the Council.

### **IV. Overview of MIC3 Annual Meeting**

Commissioner provided an overview of topics discussed at 2012 annual MIC3 meeting. Commissioner also noted that there was discussion of reaching more families in the National Guard and Reserves which have been

much more active post-911. Council members were supportive of the idea assuming that resources are not overtaxed and services to active duty service members are not compromised.

He also noted that the Commission discussed Compact language around kindergarten enrollment. A proposed rule change was offered requiring students to have both enrolled and attended kindergarten as opposed to just enrolled in order to be able to attend kindergarten in the receiving state. The following language was considered by the Commission.

*“In the case of a kindergarten student, the student must have been enrolled and attended class in the sending state in order to assure continued attendance in kindergarten in the receiving state.”*

He shared that he had participated in the Public Relations and Training Committee which is chaired by the Commissioner. Committee is working on strategic plan around communications and outreach efforts as well as new commissioner induction. Committee hopes to focus on raising the visibility of the Compact.

## **V. Discussion of Outreach Materials**

Amber Kirchhoff described process the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Tool Kits document had been developed including review of other states’ materials and communications plans. These materials were used to inform the types of information to be included in Illinois’ materials. Specific topics were added or removed from initial drafts based on feedback of the Council stemming from their experience and most commonly received inquiries.

Drafts presented to Council incorporated feedback from previous meeting. The IL State Board of Education (ISBE) is reviewing the documents to ensure accuracy and adding school code citations to each section of the tool kit and response in the FAQs. Council had previously expressed interest in including both the state seal and MIC3 logo to ensure materials were easily recognizable and to help raise visibility of the Compact. Governor’s Office is happy to lend the state seal and MIC3 has been contacted for permission to include their logo on materials upon completion.

Council agreed that materials will be made available electronically through the ISBE website with other related sites and organizations linking to the documents. Not only does keeping the document housed on one site make materials widely accessible and easy to share but also ensures that everyone is accessing the most up to date version as materials may need to be updated to reflect statutory changes or changes to contact information. Group was also wanted to encourage reciprocal links to partner sites that families or educators may come across in their search for information.

Council discussed importance of tapping into related networks to reach as broad an audience as possible including families, educators, administrators, and base personnel.

Given that there are new participants, draft will be circulated to the Council for review and comment. Any recommended edits or additions will be due to Amber for inclusion.

Follow up meeting or call focused on development and distribution of outreach materials to be scheduled.

## **VI. Other Business**

It was noted that North Chicago is not among the three districts with the highest percentage of military students although it is in terms of numbers as outlined by the statute. Anne Kondziela of Naval Station Great Lakes noted that she serves families with students in fifteen districts neighboring the base. She hopes to address this issue in the Compact's enacting legislation. Julie Smith indicated that the intent of the Compact was to be inclusive and she thanked both Ben Martindale and Anne for their participation and support for the work of the Council.

## **VII. Adjourn**